GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1998
ANSWERED ON:13.03.2008
CONSTRUCTION OF BHOPAL GAS TRAGEDY MEMORIAL
Mahato Shri Narahari

Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) the date on which the decision to construct Bhopal Gas Tragedy Memorial was taken and the amount sanctioned therefor by the Government;

(b) whether the design of the memorial has been selected;

(c) if so, the steps being taken by the Government for immediate construction of the memorial;

(d) the time by which the work is likely to be completed and the total expenditure to be incurred thereon;

(e) the estimated quantity of chemical waste currently dumped in the Union Carbide premises;

(f) the reasons for its non-removal so far; and

(g) the time by which the waste is likely to be removed ?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI B.K. HANDIQUE).

(a)to(d) : The State Government of Madhya Pradesh has informed that the decision to construct a Bhopal Gas Tragedy Memorial was taken by the State Government on 23rd February,2007.The Planning Commission, Government of India has approved one time additional central assistance of Rs. 10.00 Crore for this purpose,provided during 2006-07 to the Government of Madhya Pradesh. The State Cabinet Sub-Committee has approved the conceptual plan for construction of Bhopal Gas Tragedy Memorial.

The extent of Government of India`s responsibility in the matter of construction of memorial is limited to the additional central assistance released to the State Government by Planning Commission.The State Government has moved an application before the Madhya Pradesh High Court, Jabalpur in Writ Petition No. 2802/2004 pending before the High Court seeking permission to start construction of the memorial.The construction will start after receiving the permission of the High Court.

(e)to (g): The estimated quantity of toxic wastes lying at the Union Carbide Plant site is approximately 386 MT.The High Court of Madhya Pradesh while hearing the Public Interest Litigation(PIL)filed in Writ Petition No. 2802 of 2004, constituted a Task Force vide i t s orders dated 30.3.2005, 13.5.2005 and 15.3.2007, under the chairmanship of Secretary(Chemicals and Petrochemicals),Government of India,for monitoring the process of the removal of the toxic wastes lying in and around the UCIL plant site.The Government of Madhya Pradesh has submitted a Road Map to the High Court of Madhya Pradesh giving details of the activities to be undertaken for the removal/disposal of these toxic wastes.The Madhya Pradesh Pollution Control Board(MPPCB) is the executing agency for coordinating the activities covered under the Road Map,as per the provisions of the Hazardous Wastes(Management and Handling) Rules,1989.The High Court is regularly monitoring the progress made by the Task Force and has issued necessary directions to the Madhya Pradesh Pollution Control Board and Government of Madhya Pradesh.